



Maryland Assistance to Hurricane Katrina Victims

Updated: Thursday, September 15, 2005

"When things were the bleakest here and we were looking for some sort of relief from the federal level or state level or whatever, you were a lighthouse on a dark shore." - Jefferson Parish (Louisiana) President Aaron Broussard to Governor Ehrlich, September 12, 2005

Since Hurricane Katrina hit, Governor Ehrlich and others in Maryland have taken the following steps to help victims in need:

- Governor Ehrlich secured a federal declaration of emergency for Maryland to help care for hurricane evacuees who are in Maryland and receiving government services. The declaration makes certain government agencies eligible for reimbursement for the cost of caring for evacuees, including for up to one year of housing.
- The Ehrlich Administration is working with the Red Cross to provide housing for hurricane victims who have relocated to Maryland. So far, over 2,700 evacuees have registered with the Red Cross in Maryland.
- Per Governor Ehrlich's direction, more than 825 victims have received services from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Department of Human Resources has assisted nearly 700 people.
- Governor Ehrlich has established a 24-hour contact number – 1-877-868-4954 – to ensure that Maryland services are available to hurricane victims in Maryland.
- Governor Ehrlich has deployed roughly 320 Maryland National Guard personnel to the Gulf Coast states to conduct security operations and logistical support.
- To date, 613 Maryland military and civilian personnel have been deployed to affected Gulf States.

- The Maryland National Guard has flown a total of 19 relief flights to the Gulf Coast states since Hurricane Katrina hit.
- The Ehrlich Administration has deployed roughly 250 medical professionals to Jefferson Parish, one of the hardest hit regions in Louisiana, to staff a school-based medical center to help victims in need.
- The Administration also deployed roughly 40 emergency operations professionals to Jefferson Parish, including Clay Stamp, Deputy Director of Maryland's Emergency Medical Services.
- Governor Ehrlich spoke with Aaron Broussard, President of Jefferson Parish, one of the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina. President Broussard thanked Governor Ehrlich for all of Maryland's efforts to assist Jefferson Parish.
- The Ehrlich Administration is conducting an inventory of space that can be used to house hurricane victims.
- The Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism is keeping a database of citizens who have volunteered to open their homes to victims.
- Governor Ehrlich established www.marylandcares.us to inform citizens on how they can volunteer or make a donation through charitable organizations.
- Maryland's Emergency Operation Center is open under a partial activation.
- The Maryland Relay will be providing communication services to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama until they are able to re-establish their Relay systems for people who are deaf or have speech difficulties.
- More than 250 children who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina have enrolled in public schools in 20 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.
- Maryland schools expediting enrollment of school children who may be moving to Maryland in the wake of the storm and are launching a statewide fundraising campaign to help the victims.
- The Maryland Higher Education Commission and University System of Maryland are enrolling student victims of Hurricane Katrina who have relocated to Maryland.
- The Ehrlich Administration continues to inventory staff and equipment to send to affected states.
- Governor Ehrlich and Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing Maryland military to conduct law enforcement within the State of Louisiana.

- Governor Ehrlich and Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing Maryland military to conduct law enforcement within the State of Mississippi.
- Governor Ehrlich loaned two of the State's "Wellmobiles" to the Red Cross of Central Maryland to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Wellmobile is a 33-foot mobile health care provider. The "Wellmobiles" have been deployed to Alabama.
- Governor Ehrlich met with ministers in Prince George's County to discuss how the faith-based community can help hurricane victims.
- At least 3 National Guard chaplains have been dispatched to assist Hurricane Victims.
- CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield has offered \$50,000 to cover costs the Wellmobile incurs in the coming weeks assisting Hurricane victims and another \$50,000 for flood relief efforts.
- The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services sent three tractor-trailers full of requested supplies to their counterparts in the State of Louisiana.
- The Ehrlich Administration is responding to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Database, which allows impacted states to request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently.
- The Maryland Emergency Management Agency deployed a logistics team to Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, to support Maryland troop and first responders.
- Comptroller Schaefer extended tax-filing deadlines for Maryland taxpayers with business or financial records in the Presidential Disaster Areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina.
- BWI Airport waived landing fees for two relief flights to Baton Rouge conducted by Diplomat Freight.